LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BICENTENNIAL
2000
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The LIBRARY *of* CONGRESS Information Bulletin

Vol. 59, No. 1 January 2000

Arthur Szyk: Artist for Freedom

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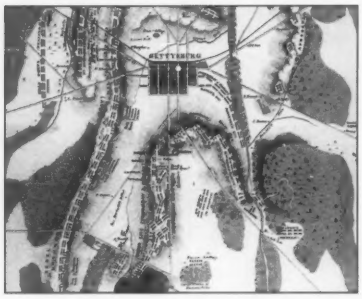
JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress



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On the Cover: Arthur Szyk's powerful *Labor Day* appeared on the cover of *Collier's* magazine on Sept. 12, 1942. Many works by the Polish illustrator are on view in a new Library exhibition.

Cover Story: Arthur Szyk created some of the most memorable anti-Axis propaganda during World War II, as well as finely rendered and patriotic celebrations of the United States, his adopted country. 10

On the New Frontier: A new Web site chronicles the exploration, settlement and development of the American West and Russia's parallel experience in exploring and settling the Russian Far East. 3

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GUY LAMOLINARA, Editor
JOHN H. SAYERS, Designer

Meeting of Frontiers

Web Project Explores Russian, American Settlement

By JOHN VAN OUDENAREN

A new Web site created by the Library of Congress under a special congressional appropriation chronicles the exploration, settlement and development of the American West, Russia's parallel experience in exploring and settling Siberia and the Russian Far East, and the meeting of the Russian and American frontiers in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. The site is the pilot phase of a multiyear project that will result in the digitization of thousands of items from the Library's own collections as well as the acquisition from Russian libraries and archives of digital versions of materials currently not available in the United States.

Speaking in November to an audience of Russian scholars, librarians and archivists gathered at Spaso House, the residence of the U.S. ambassador to the Russian Federation, Dr. Billington observed that the explosive growth of the Internet in the United States and Russia had not been accompanied by the development of enough cost-free, high-quality content that could be used by schools and libraries. "Too much of what exists in both our countries is purely commercial or of low quality. With 'Meeting of Frontiers,' we are taking a cooperative step to create positive content that will be of great benefit, especially to our teachers and young people, and that will help to strengthen the ties between Russians and Americans by focusing on what is common in our histories."

"Meeting of Frontiers," available at **frontiers.loc.gov**, is the Library's first major digital project involving international material and extensive cooperation with foreign institutions to obtain materials for the Library's collections in digital form. It is also the first component of an international digital library that will build upon the Library's National Digital Library Program.

The project grew out of discussions between Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) and Dr. Billington about the possibilities for using the Internet to expand access to historical materials and to build links between Americans — especially students and young people — and their counterparts in other countries. Sen. Stevens was particularly interested in using the Internet to strengthen ties between Alaska and its Russian neighbors and to highlight the many commonalities in Russian and American frontier histories.

The pilot site includes more than 2,500 items totaling some 70,000 images from the Library's rare book, manuscript, map, film and sound recording collections. These items tell the story of the explorers, fur traders, missionaries, exiles, gold miners and adventurers that peopled both frontiers and their interactions with the native peoples of Siberia and the American West. The site is bilingual, in English and Russian, and is intended for the general public and for use in U.S. and Russian schools and libraries. Scholars also will benefit from the mass of primary material included, much of which has never been published or is extremely rare.

The pilot site was developed in 1999 at the Library of Congress by a team of Library staff and American and Russian consultants. It includes a collection of photographs from Alaska in the 1910s by Frank. G. Carpenter, the John C. Grabill Collection of photographs of 1880s frontier life in Colorado, South Dakota and Wyoming, and several hundred photographs documenting the Siberian exile system taken by the American explorer George Kennan in 1885. Manuscripts include the Yudin Collection of papers from the Russian-American Company (1786-1830), selections from the archive of the Russian Orthodox Church in Alaska and logs, letters and reports by Bering, Chirikov and other early Russian explorers. Maps in "Meeting of Frontiers" document the growth of geographic knowledge about the American West, Alaska and the Pacific Northwest, beginning with 16th century maps that show Asia connected to North America and culminating in the detailed hydrographic maps prepared by naval officers in the early 19th century.

Other noteworthy items in the pilot site include films of the Russo-Japanese war made by Thomas Edison in 1905, the recording of a song, sung in Russian in 1954 by a descendant of the early Russian settlers and, courtesy of the National Archives, the log of George Washington De Long, the commander of the *U.S.S. Jeannette*, an Arctic exploring vessel that was crushed in the ice north of the Lena River delta in 1879.

The next stage of the project, scheduled to begin early this year, will involve adding to "Meeting of Fron-

This detail of a map published by the Imperial Academy of St. Petersburg (1775) includes "Bering's Isle, where he was cast away & died in 1741."

S.M. Prokudin-Gorskii

A view of the western section of the city of Dalmatov, as seen from the bell tower of the monastery, 1912

tiers" collections from libraries and archives in Alaska and throughout Russia.

The Elmer E. Rasmuson Library of the University of Alaska at Fairbanks will contribute digital versions of 200 rare maps and 30 rare books relating to the early exploration and settlement of Alaska and the northwestern Pacific. The Library of Congress will loan digital scanning equipment to the Russian State Library in Moscow and the National Library of Russia in St. Petersburg to create digital images for inclusion in "Meeting of Frontiers." Both institutions will select the images from their vast collections relating to Siberia and the Russian Far East.

To acquire material from libraries and archives elsewhere in Russia, the Library will work with the Open Society Institute (OSI) of Russia. Funded by American philanthropist George Soros, OSI has established and supports a network of 33 Internet centers throughout the Russian Federation. The Library will work with OSI and scholars and curators from Tomsk, Tobolsk, Khabarovsk, Yakutsk, Vladivostok and other cities in Siberia and the Far East to identify especially interesting collections relevant to the new Web site and will digitize these materials at the OSI regional centers. The Institute of World History in Moscow and Institute of History of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Novosibirsk will provide scholarly expertise to the project.

Russian contributions to the project are being coordinated by a Russian advisory committee that met for the first time in Moscow in November 1999. OSI, which has pledged to make a substantial contribution to the realization of the project, hosted the meeting, which was co-chaired by Dr. Billington and Ekaterina Genieva, president of OSI-Russia. Rep. Charles Taylor (R-N.C.) attended the meeting as an observer. Members of the committee include Viktor V. Fedorov, director of the Russian State Library; Vladimir Zaitsev, director of the National Library of Russia; leading scholars; and representatives of government ministries. This writer, who is the Library of Congress project director, and Michael Neubert, the project's coordinator for liaison with Russian institutions, also attended the meeting, which featured a demonstration of the pilot site for the Russian partner institutions.

James Collins, U.S. ambassador to the Russian Federation, addressed the opening session of the meeting and expressed his support for the project. At the conclusion of the meeting, Dr. Billington signed agreements with Mr. Fedorov and Mr. Zaitsev regarding the participation of their institutions in the project. Rep. Taylor and Dr. Billington also viewed some of the items that the Russian State Library plans to contribute, including early maps, color lithographs of Siberian landscapes, original watercolors by local artists and albums of photographs commissioned by the czars. The National Library in St. Petersburg will contribute similar items, as well as many rare books and maps.

The "Meeting of Frontiers" pilot site was a cooperative effort involving the Library's European Division and the National Digital Library (NDL) Program. Members of the project team included Deborah Thomas, the NDL project coordinator, and NDL staff members Kate Foster and Dominique Pickett. Thomas M. Barrett, assistant professor of history at St. Mary's College of Maryland, wrote the basic story line and made the initial selection of collections for the project. Andrei Pliguzov, Galina Vassilenko, Vera Siegel and Rimma Kazhdan were responsible for research, translation and checking the Russian texts. Numerous other staff members from the European Division, the NDL Program and the curatorial divisions contributed to the project.

During the next three years, the Library and its partners will expand the number and range of collections available through "Meeting of Frontiers." The Library also will work with OSI and other U.S. and Russian institutions to disseminate "Meeting of Frontiers" by assisting teachers and librarians in making the project accessible to students and scholars. This will entail the launching of a mirror site in Russia and the development of guides for teachers and other cooperative efforts to integrate "Meeting of Frontiers" into the teaching of history and language. ◆

Mr. Van Oudenaren is chief of the Library's European Division.

Charles Wilkes

An illustration of the U.S.S. Vincennes in Disappointment Bay, 1840.

New in American Memory

Civil War Maps, African Americans in Ohio Now On-Line

The American Memory Program of the Library of Congress has just made available two new presentations of digitized historical materials: "Civil War Maps" and "The African American Experience in Ohio."

The collections of materials relating to American history that are available from American Memory (**www.loc.gov**) are drawn from the Library of Congress — whose collections are unparalleled in their depth and diversity — as well as from other repositories.

The materials in the "African American Experience" presentation are from the Ohio Historical Society. Their digitization was made possible by an award from the Library of Congress/ Ameritech National Digital Library Competition. This $2 million, three-year program, which concluded in 1999, has made awards to 33 institutions nationwide to enable them to make their important American history collections available on-line.

One new collection, "Civil War Maps," is drawn from the Library of Congress's Geography and Map Division. It consists of reconnaissance, sketch, coastal and theater-of-war maps, which depict troop activities and fortifications. Part of this selection contains maps by Maj. Jedediah Hotchkiss, a topographical engineer in the Confederate Army. Hotchkiss made detailed battle maps that were used by Gens. Lee and Jackson. This site also includes maps that depict Gen. Sherman's military campaigns in Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia and the Carolinas. New Civil War maps will be added monthly.

"The African American Experience in Ohio" presents a selection of manuscripts,

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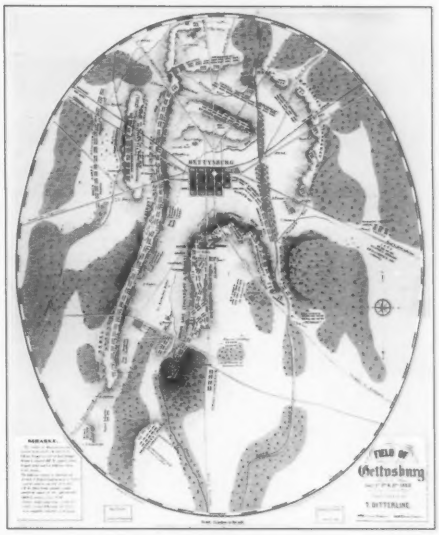


A map of the "Field of Gettysburg, July 1st, 2nd & 3rd, 1863," prepared in 1863 by Theodore Ditterline, now available on-line.

Leadership Program Funded for 2000

1999 Program Brought 2,200 Russians to 530 U.S. Communities

More than 2,200 Russian political, civic, business and intellectual leaders visited the United States in August and September 1999 to observe how American democracy and government work and how American citizens conduct their daily lives in one of the largest and most inclusive one-time visitation programs to the U. S. ever.

They were participants in the Library of Congress Open World Russian Leadership Program (RLP), which was established by the U.S. Congress last May to enable young, emerging leaders of the Russian Federation to see first hand how a democratic society works at the grassroots (see *Information Bulletin*, August 1999).

The program, which concluded Sept. 30, was deemed a success by both the Russian participants and their American hosts, and Congress has appropriated $10 million for RLP 2000.

The RLP was based on the mutual desire of the peoples of Russia and the United States to improve understanding between the two nations, as expressed in a U.S.-Russian memorandum of understanding signed in 1998. The size and scope of the RLP was particularly enhanced by the strong support of members of the U.S. Congress, who are committed to improving relations through direct contact and exchange of visits among parliamentary and congressional leaders.

"The stability of Russia is the No. 1 foreign policy concern for U.S. interests. This is a time of transition in Russia's development of democracy," said Dr. Billington, creator of the program. One of the world's leading historians of Russian culture and a recently elected Foreign Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Dr. Billington was chairman of the RLP; James W. Symington, former U.S. Representative from Missouri and state chief of protocol in the Carter administration, was the program's executive director and will be chairman of the advisory committee for RLP 2000.

Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, is the chief sponsor of the authorizing legislation.

"The feedback from the first-year participants in the Russian Leadership Program indicates how successful it has been in allowing the Russian visitors to see and experience our multilayered political and economic system," Sen. Stevens said. "Dr. Billington's vision, as one of the world's leading historians of Russian culture, and his hard work as chairman of the program are important factors in ensuring success in accomplishing the program's purpose." ◆

Bicentennial Background

Interpreting the Library's History, 1800-2000

BY JOHN Y. COLE

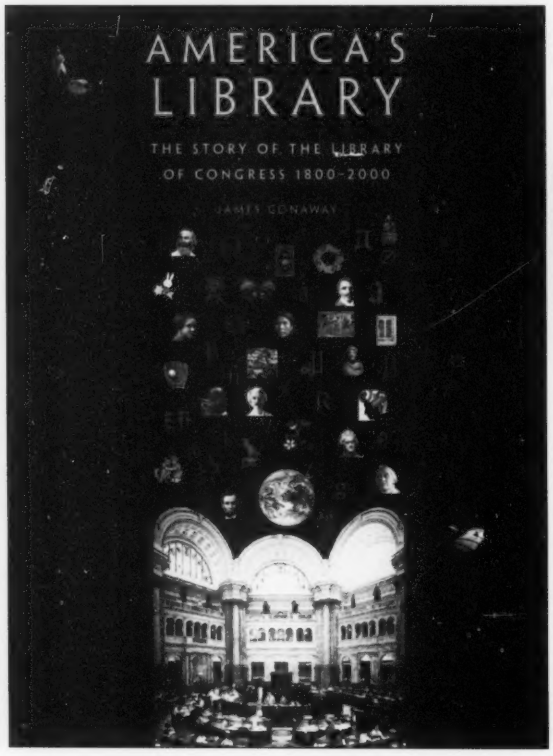
Throughout its history, a variety of publications about the Library have been published. Some have focused on the remarkable architecture of the 1897 Jefferson Building. Others, on the incomparable collections. Still others, on its myriad missions. Some publications have even covered all of these topics.

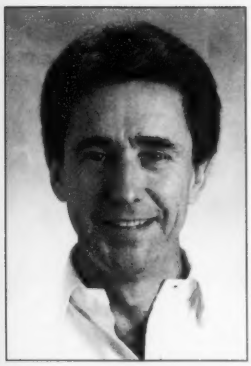
To mark the Library's Bicentennial during its birthday month of April 2000, Yale University Press will publish *America's Library: The Story of the Library of Congress, 1800-2000,* by James Conaway. This well-illustrated (151 illustrations, 73 of them in color), 256-page volume is the first full narrative history of the Library of Congress since David C. Mearns's *The Story Up to Now: The Library of Congress 1800-1946* (1947). It is aimed at a general audience and will cost $39.95.

The foreword is by Dr. Billington and the introduction ("One Writer's Library") is by biographer Edmund Morris. Graphic artist Lance Hidy designed the dust jacket. Although it is being published in association with the Library of Congress, the book reflects Mr. Conaway's interpretation of the institution's development, not the Library's.

Douglas W. Bryant, associate librarian of Harvard University, accurately observed in 1962: "The major functions of the Library of Congress might have been assigned to three or four separate agencies. ... An explanation of why they have been combined would call for a study of history rather than of administrative logic." Four decades later the Library of Congress is still adding and combining functions and growing. James Conaway's new book is a perceptive and lucid presentation of a complicated place.

Mr. Conaway is the author of eight books. His latest, *The Smithsonian: 150 Years of Adventure, Discovery and Wonder,* an illustrated history, was copublished by Smithsonian Books and Alfred A. Knopf in connection with the Smithsonian's 150th anniversary celebrations in 1996. He also has written a memoir, *Memphis Afternoons;* a best-selling social history, *Napa: The Story of an American Eden;* a book about the American West, *The Kingdom in the Country;* and a novel, *The Big Easy.* He has been a contributing editor of *Civilization: The Magazine of the Library of Congress* and over the years has written on a wide range of subjects for *The Atlantic, The New York Times Magazine, Harper's* and many other publications.





A new general history of the Library, *America's Library: The Story of the Library of Congress, 1800-2000,* by James Conaway, will be available in April to mark the Library's 200th birthday.

Interpreting a Complicated Place: Some Milestones Up to 1950

The first "general interpretations" of the Library as a whole came from the pen of Ainsworth Rand Spofford, Librarian of Congress in 1864-1897. Spofford wrote about the Library as a national institution even while he was turning the Library into that very institution. In a comprehensive Office of Education survey published in 1876, he published an article, "The Library of Congress, or National Library." Two years later, his more comprehensive article in the journal *International Review* ("The Government Library in Washington") concluded with a plea to Congress to provide funds to move the collections from the U.S. Capitol to a separate building to "render this priceless repository of knowledge in the widest degree useful to the country." In 1897 his dream came true with the opening of the Thomas Jefferson Building.

In 1904 a hefty 535-page volume, *History of the Library of Congress, Volume I, 1800-1864,* was published by the Government Printing Office and written by Library staffer William Dawson Johnston. The book stands by itself, even though Johnston meant it to be the first in a three-volume series of "contributions to American library history." Johnston's preliminary notes and chapters for the second but never-completed volume are in his personal papers in the Manu-

script Division. The published volume, drawing directly on the Library's archives and conversations with Spofford (who served as Chief Assistant Librarian until his death in 1908), is unsurpassed for the Library's prehistory (before it was formally established in 1800) and the period 1800-1864. It is itself an important documentary source, for Johnston has reprinted the texts of key congressional reports and of other early documents that have since disappeared.

Another Library staffer who tackled the institution's history was Frederick W. Ashley, chief assistant librarian in 1927-1936. His unpublished, mostly typewritten work of more than 1,600 pages, located in his papers in the Manuscript Division, covers the history of the institution from 1897 to 1939. In 1929 Ashley produced a perceptive essay, "Three Eras in the Library of Congress," which David Mearns thought (in 1946) to be "probably the most brilliant summary of Library of Congress history that has appeared."

Fortress of Freedom: The Story of the Library of Congress, published in 1942 by J.B. Lippincott, was written by Lucy Salamanca, a professional writer who was serving as head of the Inquiry and General Research Section of the Library's Legislative Reference Division. In his enthusiastic foreword, Archibald MacLeish, Librarian of Congress in 1939-1944, calls the book "the first complete history of the Library of Congress." He adds: "No piecemeal account of the units which compose the Library of Congress can convey a truthful impression of the great department of government which has for its end and aim the active and useful possession, on behalf of the people of the United States and in their interest, of the record of their past and of the works of intellect and art out of which their future may be created."

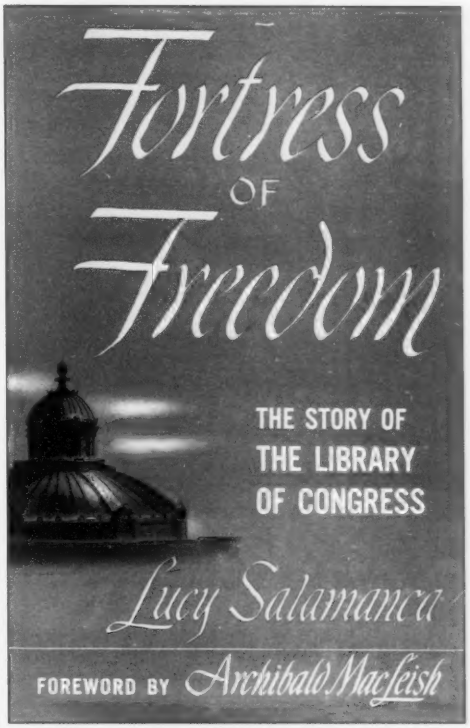
Librarian of Congress Luther H. Evans (1945-1953) asked David C. Mearns, the director of the Library's Reference Department, to write the Library's story on relative short notice and in a short period of time in order "to explain the status of the Library" and to "tell how it got this way." The result, *The Story Up to Now, The Library of Congress 1800-1946,* is a concise but sweeping review of the institution's history that emphasizes its national roots and the development of its national role. First published in the Library's 1946 *Annual Report,* it was published separately in 1947. Through the writer's enthusiasm, wit and lucid style, *The Story Up to Now* introduced many people, including many historians, to the Library.

A handsome illustrated catalog of an exhibition about the Library's history was published in 1950 as part of the institution's sesquicentennial celebration (see *Information Bulletin,* April 1999). A narrative counterpart to the catalog, "The Library of Congress: A Sesquicentenary Review," was published in the July and October 1950 issues of *Library Quarterly.* The author, Deputy Chief Assistant Librarian Dan Lacy, cogently focused on the history of the development of the collections in the first article and on their organization and use in the second.

At the conclusion of his history, he wanted to predict an untroubled outlook for the Library but found that world events made that impossible. He wrote: "And so the Library comes to the end of a sesquicentennium. It should be a time to look back with satisfaction and ahead with comfortable assurance. Now it cannot be, for the renewed outbreak of war, this time in Korea, gives greater emphasis to all the responsibilities which the Library of Congress shares with its fellows. The path across the unknown years ahead has taken another turn toward the edge of darkness, and the tasks of American libraries in the preservation of the world of the free mind will take all their strength together."

No such words will conclude the new Bicentennial publications. ◆

Mr. Cole is cochair of the Library's Bicentennial Steering Committee and director of the Center for the Book.



Fortress of Freedom **(1942) and its author, Lucy Salamanca, head of the Library's Inquiry and General Research Section of the Legislative Reference Service (now Congressional Research Service).**

Bachrach

Understanding Our Selves

Symposium on Cognition Concludes Decade of the Brain

By SHERRY LEVY-REINER

"There can be no more important research, from our point of view, than research on how human beings think and learn."

So said Dr. Billington as he opened the final program of the Decade of the Brain Project, a 10-year collaborative initiative cosponsored by the Library and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) of the National Institutes of Health.

With generous funding from the Charles A. Dana Foundation, the October 1999 meeting, "Understanding Our Selves: The Science of Cognition," complemented a similar 1998 program, "Discovering Our Selves: The Science of Emotion." More than 225 attendees–including congressional staff members, policymakers, scientists and physicians, mental health advocates and the general public–gathered in the Montpelier Room of the Madison Building to hear 14 experts explore the consequences of current research in cognitive neuroscience.

NIMH Director Steven E. Hyman, M.D., moderated the entire day's program and introduced Sens. Pete V. Domenici (R-N.M.) and Paul Wellstone (D-Minn.), who addressed the group in the morning and afternoon, respectively. Both senators paid tribute to the Library and NIMH for cosponsoring the Decade of the Brain Project and the conference on cognition as well as to the researchers and clinicians for their valuable work.

Dana Foundation Vice President Barbara Gill, Congressional Research Service Director Dan Mulhollan, and Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) at the U.S. Capitol reception celebrating the achievements of the Decade of the Brain.

Sen. Domenici noted the rapid progress in medicine's ability to understand, treat and perhaps someday prevent mental illness. He urged researchers and clinicians to move forward with applying new knowledge to applications that will help the seriously mentally ill. Sen. Wellstone emphasized the need for legislation that will end discrimination against treatment for mental illness and the more general need for changes in attitudes toward such illness.

In addition to hearing formal presentations, conference attendees visited special exhibit areas during the lunch period. Speakers and other exhibitors demonstrated the potential uses of neuroimaging equipment and spoke about their findings individually to conference attendees. NIMH offered a tour of its laboratories on videotape.

Keynote speaker V.S. Ramachandran, director of the Center for Brain and Cognition at the University of California-San Diego, spoke on "The Artful Brain: What Neurology Can Tell Us of Human Nature." Mr. Ramachandran noted the parallel agendas of research in cognitive neuroscience: trying to help patients who have neurological deficits that may be present from birth or the result of illness or accidents and trying to understand human nature in general.

New York Times science writer Sandra Blakeslee and Steven Hyman, director of the National Institute of Mental Health.

In his summary, part of a panel titled "Neuroscience and Society: The Promise of Neuroscience," Mr. Ramachandran described his research into how the human brain responds to works of art. With *New York Times* science writer Sandra Blakeslee, who moderated the concluding session, Mr. Ramachandran is author of *Phantoms in the Brain,* which explores how brain activity relates to thought and consciousness.

Two panels of researchers in the morning looked first at "The Varieties of Cognition," including conscious and unconscious memory, attention and information-processing; and "Understanding Cognitive Disorders," particularly schizophrenia and dementia, emphasizing the significant role played by new technologies – especially functional imaging – in analyzing brain activity.

In the afternoon, a panel of researchers studying autism and developmental and learning disorders described how their findings are helping children and adults in practical ways in a session titled "Neuroscience and Society: Making a Difference."

In his closing remarks, Mr. Hyman noted, "The science of cognition and the science of emotion, which are inextricably linked, have enormous implications for our self-understanding and for the widest range of human experience from art to seriously disabling mental illnesses. We've moved, in this Decade of the Brain, from fairly simplistic models of how the brain works to a recognition of the extreme complexity of the brain and the complexity

Dr. Billington (right) greets Sen. Pete Domenici (R-N.M.) at the symposium.

of our investigations. As we've illustrated today, the science is essential to self-understanding but it need not strip us of our humanity as we delve more deeply."

Following the all-day program, speakers and leaders of groups such as the American Psychological Association and Research!America attended a special celebration in the Capitol to celebrate the achievements of the Decade of the Brain. Among members of Congress who attended the reception were: Sens. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) and Reps. Sander Levin (D-Mich.), John Porter (R-Ill.), Charles Taylor (R-N.C.), Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), and former Rep. Paul Rogers.

Since 1990 the Library of Congress and the National Institute of Mental Health have collaborated on this unique interagency initiative to advance the goals set forth in a Presidential Proclamation designating the 1990s the Decade of the Brain. To enhance public awareness of the benefits to be derived from brain research, the Library and NIMH have cosponsored numerous symposia, congressional informational breakfasts, publications, videotapes and a Web site. Administered by Prosser Gifford and this writer in the Library's Office of Scholarly Programs, the program has brought hundreds of people to programs at the Library and reached millions of others through various media, including the Internet.

For more information, visit the Library of Congress/NIMH Decade of the Brain Web site at **www.loc.gov/loc/brain**. Single copies of an executive summary will be available from NIMH early in 2000. A videotape of the conference can be viewed at **nimh.nih.gov/events/cogagenda.cfm**. ◆

Ms. Levy-Reiner is the coordinator the Library of Congress/National Institute of Mental Health project on the Decade of the Brain.

Speakers and Their Topics

- Jonathan D. Cohen, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Psychology and Director, Center for the Study of Brain, Mind and Behavior, Princeton University; and Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh; "Online Thinking in the Brain"
- Eric Courchesne, Ph.D., Professor of Neurosciences, School of Medicine, University of California-San Diego; "A Decade of Research on Autism: From Mystery to Insight and Hope"
- Martha Bridge Denckla, M.D., Director, Developmental Cognitive Neurology, the Kennedy Krieger Institute; and Professor of Neurology, Pediatrics and Psychiatry, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; "Beneath the Surface: Imaging Reveals Subcortical Brain Factors Underlying Learning Disabilities"
- Robert Desimone, Ph.D., Scientific Director, National Institute of Mental Health, National Institutes of Health; "How the Brain Pays Attention"
- Guinevere Eden, D. Phil., Assistant Professor, Georgetown University Medical Center; "Using Functional Brain Imaging to Study the Reading Brain"
- Bruce S. McEwen, Ph.D., Professor and Head, Harold and Margaret Milliken Hatch Laboratory of Neuroendocrinology, Rockefeller University; "Stress, the Brain, and Our Mental and Physical Health"
- Denise Park, Ph.D., Senior Research Scientist, the Center for Applied Cognitive Research on Aging, Institute for Social Research, the University of Michigan; "The Aging Mind"
- Steve Petersen, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Neurology and Neurological Surgery, Washington University School of Medicine; "Studies of Memory: Implications for 'Born to Learn'"
- V.S. Ramachandran, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Director, Center for Brain and Cognition, the University of California-San Diego; "The Artful Brain: What Neurology Can Tell Us of Human Nature and the Meaning of Art"
- Bruce R. Rosen, M.D., Ph.D., Director, Massachusetts General Hospital NMR Center; Professor in Radiology, Harvard Medical School; "The Future of Functional Imaging"
- Larry Squire, Ph.D., Research Career Scientist, VA Medical Center, San Diego; Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience, the University of California-San Diego School of Medicine; "Conscious and Unconscious Memory Systems of the Brain"
- Daniel R. Weinberger, M.D., Chief, Clinical Brain Disorders Branch, National Institute of Mental Health, National Institutes of Health; "Cognitive Circuitry and the Cell Biology of Schizophrenia"

Exhibitors

- Edgar DeYoe, Ph.D., Department of Cellular Biology, Neurobiology and Anatomy, Medical College of Wisconsin
- Edward Flynn, Ph.D., Director, National Foundation for Functional Brain Imaging, Albuquerque, N.M.

Participants in the conference included (seated, from left) Guinevere Eden, Daniel Weinberger, Steven Hyman and Sandra Blakeslee; (standing, from left) Eric Courchesne, Martha Bridge Denckla, Denise Park, Robert Desimone, Larry Squire, Edgar DeYoe, Jonathan Cohen, Bruce McEwen, Steve Petersen, Edward Flynn, Bruce Rosen and V.S. Ramachandran.

Poland Fights Nazi Dragon

POLISH WAR RELIEF

Detail (left) from Arthur Szyk's illumination of the *Declaration of Independence of the United States,* 1950, featuring George Washington and soliders from the Colonial army; this poster for the Polish War Relief effort during World War II is characteristic of Szyk's anti-Nazi emphasis; Adolph Hitler (right) was another frequent target of Szyk's pen, here in a detail from the 1944 cartoon *Don't Vote for Roosevelt!!!*

The Art of Arthur Szyk

'Artist for Freedom' Featured in Library Exhibition

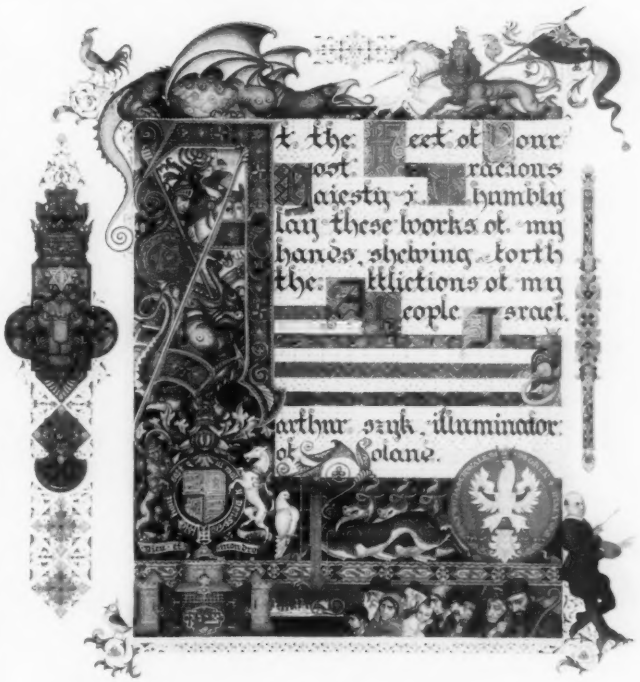
BY SARA W. DUKE AND HOLLY KRUEGER

The artist Arthur Szyk created some of the most memorable anti-Axis propaganda during World War II, as well as finely rendered and patriotic celebrations of the United States, his adopted country.

The Library of Congress celebrates the work of this artist, as well as three important Bicentennial "Gifts to the Nation" on the part of his daughter Alexandra Szyk Bracie and a private collector, with an exhibition in the Swann Gallery of Caricature and Cartoon in the Jefferson Building. Containing 17 representative works from caricatures of Axis leaders to masterpieces of illumination, "Arthur Szyk: Artist for Freedom" represents the breadth of the artist's *oeuvre*.

(The Bicentennial program "Gifts to the Nation" is an opportunity to support the Library's acquisition of important cultural legacies, as well as the scholars and curators who bring them to life. A story on the program appeared in the December 1999 issue. The Bicentennial of the Library is April 24.)

Born in Lodz, Poland, of Jewish parents, Szyk (1894-1951) showed his artistic ability early. He trained in the Near East, Paris and Krakow, settling in Paris in 1924, where he would reside for a decade. While in Paris he illustrated the work of Flaubert and others in a variety of styles that showed his mastery of both the miniature and caricature. He returned to Lodz in 1934, but traveled around the world, before moving to Great Britain in 1939. An increasingly politicized artist in the face of growing anti-Semitism in Europe, Szyk (pronounced "Schick") began to produce allegorical works against tyranny and oppression. For almost a decade he labored to create an elaborately illustrated Haggadah that attacked the Nazis, but he could not find anyone willing to take the risk to publish his version of the Passover story. It was in England that his masterpiece, *The Haggadah,* was finally published in 1940, stripped of its anti-Nazi iconography.



The dedication leaf to Britain's King George VI from *The Haggadah*, 1940.

In 1940 Szyk made his way to New York. His anti-Axis cartoons and caricatures had captivated Europe and North America, and newspaper accounts told of Hitler's having put a price on his head. He wrote of the United States, "At last, I have found the home I have always searched for. Here I can speak of what my soul feels. There is no other place on earth that gives one the freedom, liberty and justice that America does." He embraced the patriotic spirit of his adopted country, evident in his *Declaration of Independence* (1950), *Four Freedoms Prayer* (1949), and *Bill of Rights* (1949).

Arthur Szyk's Working Method

It is easy to see why Arthur Szyk is admired not only for the content of his works, but also for the way he constructed his

jewellike creations. While earlier works from the 1930s are looser in style than the pen-and-ink drawings of the 1940s, the latter show the elements of the illuminated manuscript style for which he is known.

"Europe Is Getting Hot..." (1944) reveals Szyk's method of applying ink and graphite in succeeding layers to create a carefully modeled but highly individualized caricature, as in the subtle touches of graphite combined with pen strokes in Spanish dictator Francisco Franco's face.

For all of the items on view in this exhibition, Szyk began his composition with a lightly applied but fairly complete "underdrawing" in graphite pencil. Traces of this preliminary drawing can be seen under high magnification along the edges of some of the forms. The design was then built up with successive layers of transparent and opaque watercolors. Many subsequent tiny, precisely placed strokes of color to define the shape of an ear or the features of a face can be discerned. Use of this technique requires a light and supremely confident touch because application of watercolor on top of watercolor can dissolve both strokes into a muddy mess. Note the fine working of details in the close-up views of the Madonna and child in *Four Freedoms Prayer* (page 13). As with illuminated manuscripts, this style of working can have its drawbacks. Sometimes the paint does not adhere well to the layers underneath or the paint buildup can become too brittle to withstand slight flexing of the paper. Flaking paint is a common problem in multilayered works of art, and many of the objects in the exhibition required conservation by the Library before they could be put safely on view. Treatment involved close examination of all areas of the painting under magnification and flowing the appropriate consolidant (adhesive used to adhere the paint back to the paper) into areas of insecurely attached media.

The objects in the exhibition are rightfully defined and thought of as two-dimensional. Magnified examination of the *Four Freedoms Prayer,* however, reveals subtle use of three-dimensional aspects to enhance the rendering of the objects. For example, the folds in the Virgin Mary's robes were built of successive layering of ultramarine watercolor adding definition through sculptural means rather than modeling with color and hue differences. Another example of delicate, three-dimensional effects can be discerned in the Virgin Mary's face. The ridge of her nose below her eyebrows and the edge of her headpiece are incised lines, which, while reading as darker applications of media, are in reality lines engraved into the paper.

Little evidence of such corrections as roughened paper, smudged colors or gouged support can be found, which suggests that Szyk had his final composition firmly in mind upon completion of the underdrawing. That he made few mistakes in bringing this composition to life is also apparent.

While all of the described techniques are standard methods employed by artists working in watercolor, Szyk used them to great effect to express his vision. His use of these techniques is particularly amazing, given Szyk's poor eyesight. He wore thick, heavy glasses and as a result had to get very close to the paper to see. One humorous anecdote recalls Szyk receiving a reprimand for getting too close to the originals during an exhibition of his work, the admonisher obviously not knowing to whom he was speaking. Szyk graciously befriended him, a young, budding cartoonist, and thus added another admirer to those already in awe of his abilities. His creations are as remarkable today for their technical prowess as they were then. ◆

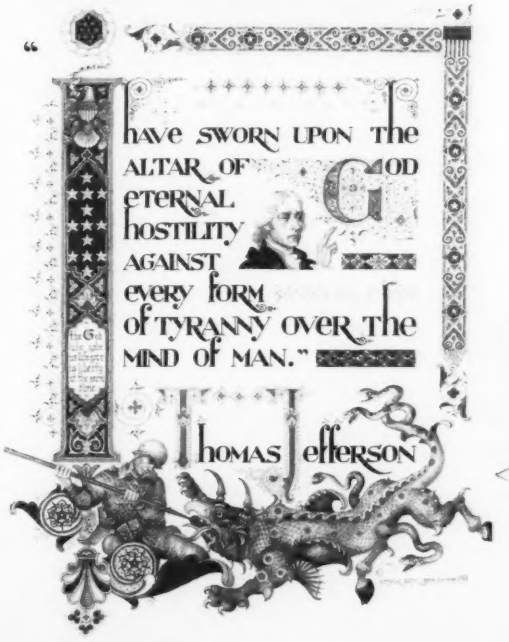
Ms. Duke is curatorial project assistant for Cartoon and Caricature in the Prints & Photographs Division. Ms. Krueger is senior paper conservator in the Conservation Division.

"Europe Is Getting Hot! We've Got to Move to the Western Hemisphere," **1944; detail of Hermann Goering, head of the German Air Force; detail of Francisco Franco, president of Spain.**

"Arthur Szyk: Artist for Freedom" will remain on view in the Swann Gallery through May 6. The gallery, located adjacent to the new Visitors' Center in the Jefferson Building, is open to the public free of charge from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

freedom of religion
freedom from want
freedom of speech
freedom from fear
THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE, SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THIS EARTH

Clockwise from left: illustration from *Four Freedoms Prayer*, 1949, with two details from the same piece; Szyk's illustration of Japanese Admiral Yamamoto graced the cover of *Time* magazine shortly after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941; Szyk's self-portrait from *Ink and Blood*, 1946; *"I Have Sworn Upon the Altar of God Eternal Hostility Against Every Form of Tyranny Over the Mind of Man," Thomas Jefferson*, 1951.



An Uncommon Scold

Treasure-Talk Describes Life of Anne Royall

Following is an article based on a recent "Treasure-Talk" at the Library. Treasure-Talks are given by Library specialists who discuss particular items in the permanent exhibition "American Treasures of the Library of Congress," on view Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. except Sundays and federal holidays.

BY CYNTHIA EARMAN

Early in the 19th century the newspaper *Paul Pry* dedicated itself to exposing political corruption and religious fraud. It was edited by the audacious Anne Newport Royall at a time when few women were newspaper editors and even fewer were willing to take on the establishment.

The Library's collection of the works of Royall include nine volumes of travel books, one novel and two newspapers that together span more than 30 years — from Presidents Monroe to Pierce. Royall's travels took her from Louisiana to Maine, and her observations of the people and places she encountered provide a rich glimpse into antebellum America. As the self-appointed guardian of democracy, Royall exposed graft and corruption wherever she went. Her boldness and tenacity were remarkable in an era when society was obsessed with the trappings of gentility.

Born in 1769 in Baltimore in the colony of Maryland, Anne Newport grew up on the frontier of western Pennsylvania. Later, she moved with her widowed mother and half-brother to the mountains of western Virginia. There Butler found work as a housekeeper for the Revolutionary War veteran Maj. William Royall. Anne was 18 when they met and Royall delightedly introduced his young servant to the works of authors ranging from Shakespeare to Voltaire. Royall was a Mason and told Anne that Masons always helped each other, which she later found to be true. At some point Anne moved into Royall's mountain mansion, and in 1797 they wed. She was 28; he was in his 50s. For 15 years, the Royalls lived in comfort. This marked the only time in Anne's life when she had no financial worries. In 1812 William Royall died, leaving her with a life interest in his property. Royall's relatives protested, claiming the will was a forgery. Seven years of litigation ensued until in 1819 a jury annulled the will. Left with only a smaller dower, Anne left for Alabama.

For four years, Anne Royall traveled around Alabama. In letters to her friend and lawyer, Matthew Dunbar, she described the evolution of the young state. During this sojourn, Royall decided to become a writer. Despite plans to sell her books by subscription — a common practice during this time — Royall needed capital to cover her travel costs. Thus, she gathered her letters to Dunbar into a manuscript that would eventually be published as *Letters from Alabama*. She then completed the manuscript of *The Tennessean* (a novel) and set off for Washington, D.C., to petition for a pension as the widow of a Revolutionary War solider.

In 1824 Anne Newport Royall arrived in Washington. Like many other widows, she came to present her case to Congress. As fate would have it, the Pension Law then in effect did not specifically recognize a widow's right to her husband's pension; each widow needed to plead her own case. And so Royall began lobbying. From the house gallery, Royall listened to the orations of men including Virginia's John Randolph and Massachusetts's Daniel Webster. Eventually she called upon Secretary of State John Quincy Adams to discuss the pension issue. He agreed that the pension bill needed reform and promised to support her efforts. In 1805 Adams, while he was senator, declined a plea for support from Charlotte Hazen, widow of Gen. Moses Hazen. At the time, Adams believed it wrong for representatives of a state to act in the interests of an individual. Rather, legislators should act for the benefit of the whole country. Almost 20 years later, Adams changed his mind. In addition to a new champion (Adams continued to support Royall's pension petitions when he later served in the House of Representatives) she also gained a subscriber for two books. Adams also invited Royall to visit his wife at their Washington home, as well as his father, in Massachusetts. Before re-

THE HUNTRESS.

EDUCATION.—"The main pillar which sustains the Temple of Liberty."—JOHNSON.

VOL. I. WASHINGTON CITY, D. C. DECEMBER 2, 1836. NO. I.

THE HUNTRESS,

MRS. ANNE ROYALL.

TERMS.

A TALE OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.

SONG.—THE BLOOM IS ON THE RYE.

In *The Huntress*, the successor to her *Paul Pry* newspaper, Anne Newport Royall exposed the graft, nepotism and laziness in the Washington bureaucracy in the mid-1800s.

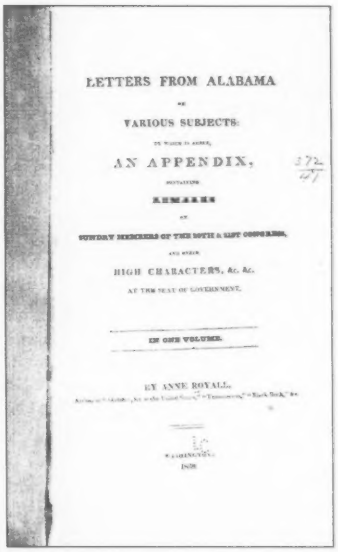
suming her travels, Royall did call upon Louisa Adams, who greeted her warmly and gave her a warm, white shawl for her journey. Royall's final task before setting out north was to interview Gen. Lafayette, from whom she obtained a letter attesting to her husband's military service.

From Washington, Royall journeyed to Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Albany, Springfield, Hartford, Worcester, Boston and New Haven. In each city, she called upon leading citizens for interviews and subscriptions. In Philadelphia, she visited the printer Matthew Carey. Carey and his son declined to publish her works, as the American audience preferred European authors. Royall took copious notes concerning each city's population, industry, physical description and modes of available transportation. She also noted regional dialects, modes of dress and the character of residents. When unscrupulous innkeepers tried to take advantage of travelers by charging too much, Royall protested, refused to pay the excess and took more notes.

Such incidents are spread throughout her books. By the time Royall reached New York, she needed money. Drawing upon Masonic connections, she met Hippolite Barriàre, the manager of the Chatham Garden Theater, who arranged a benefit performance. Barriàre gave Royall the house receipts — $180. Continuing onto Boston, Royall visited John Adams and gave him an update on his son and daughter-in-law. By 1826, Royall had completed her manuscript of the northern tour. Titled *Sketches of History, Life and Manners in the United States,* it was privately printed in New Haven. Royall was 57. *The Tennessean* was published a year later.

Royall's books caused quite a stir and earned her some very powerful enemies, including Philadelphia's Rev. Ezra Stiles Ely. In the 1820s, Ely tried to forge an alliance between church and state through the election of Christian candidates. Never fond of missionaries, Royall became an outright critic of Ely and the American Tract Society, whose pamphlets were liberally distributed during this time. In her books, Royall called Presbyterians "blue-skins," "blackcoats" and "copper-heads" as she detailed their political plots and thus earned herself a reputation as a vulgar, offensive woman. Occasionally her critics bought and destroyed her books. Others simply refused to sell them. While in Vermont, one "blue-skin" shopkeeper pushed Royall down a staircase. Ely and his followers considered Royall a devil and devised a plan to punish her.

Anne Royall returned to Washington in 1829 and took up residence on Capitol Hill, near an engine house. In her absence, the engine house — built with federal monies — had been allowing a small Presbyterian congregation to use the house for services. Royall claimed that children from the congregation pelted her windows with stones. One member of the congregation, John Coyle Sr., a congressional clerk and a "blackcoat" — began praying silently beneath Royall's window. Others visited her, trying, she claimed, to convert her. When Royall responded to the taunting and visits by cursing, she fell into their trap.


LETTERS FROM ALABAMA
TO
VARIOUS SUBJECTS:
AN APPENDIX,
HIGH CHARACTERS, &c. &c.
IN ONE VOLUME.
BY ANNE ROYALL.

Royall's collection of letters to her friend and lawyer, Matthew Dunbar, describing the evolution of Alabama.

John Coyle and others, who were in contact with Ely, presented their complaints to District Attorney Thomas Swann. Their first attempt failed, as their complaint was dated a day before the alleged incident occurred. The second time Royall was arrested. She was charged for being a public nuisance, a common brawler and a common scold. At the trial, witnesses including former Librarian of Congress George Watterston and Secretary of War William Eaton testified. On June 31, 1829, the Circuit Court of the United States for Washington County found Ann Royall guilty of being a common scold and disturber of the peace. She thus became the first North American legally declared a common scold. The traditional punishment of ducking — for which the Marines at the Navy Yard had constructed a ducking chair — was found obsolete; the offense, however, was not. The court fined Royall $10. Two report-

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Books by Anne Newport Royall

Sketches of History, Life and Manners in the United States, by a Traveller. New Haven, 1826.

The Tennessean, a novel founded on fact. New Haven, 1827.

The Black Book, a Continuation of Travels in the United States. 3 vols. Washington, 1828-1829.

Mrs. Royall's Pennsylvania, or Travels in the United States. 2 vols. Washington, 1829.

Letters from Alabama on Various Subjects. Washington, 1830.

Mrs. Royall's Southern Tour, or, Second Series of Black Books. 3 vols. Washington, 1831.

Paul Pry. Washington, 1831-1836.

The Huntress. Washington, 1836-1854.

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Closer to the Digital Book

Library Installs State-of-the-Art Recording Facility

The Library of Congress moved one step closer to being able to produce digital talking books for users of its National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) with the recent installation of a new state-of-the-art digital recording facility. A major step in the development of digital talking books, the new studio follows installation of a digital duplication system at the Library's facility in Cincinnati earlier this year.

"These initiatives represent the Library's long-term commitment to develop digital technology for blind and physically handicapped individuals," said NLS Director Frank Kurt Cylke. "The new digital recording and duplication facilities will permit NLS to develop specifications for a digital mastering and duplication system. The results of this prototype effort — and a second system to obtain experience with alternative mastering systems — will be the technical specifications that will be used to produce digital talking books and magazines."

Wells B. Kormann, chief of the NLS Materials Development Division, who chairs the Library's Digital Audio Development Committee, noted that, "while these efforts are important in digital technology development, there remains much work to be done in determining how and with what delivery mechanism digital talking books will eventually become available to users. Having digital recording and duplication standards in place within the next several years will allow NLS to build a digital archives of talking books and magazines. This will be important when we are able to offer patrons access to digital recordings in the future."

The experimental digital audio mastering equipment selected is called a Digidesign Pro Tools 24. "This system, which operates on a personal computer, was custom-engineered and assembled and installed in the NLS recording studio," said John Cookson, head of the NLS Engineering Section.

"At present there is no standard digital audio mastering system that meets talking-book performance requirements for producing digital original master recordings," said Billy R. West, audio book production specialist.

A contract for the equipment, installation, custom wiring and fabrication of the recording studio was recently awarded to Washington Professional Systems. The goal is to complete mastering of the first experimental digital talking book by early spring 2000.

In October 1999, NLS announced a milestone for its braille readers when the first digital braille book was accessed on the Internet (see *Information Bulletin,* December 1999). The technological breakthrough signaled a successful two-year effort to develop an Internet distribution system for braille books in the collection. More than 2,700 braille books created by the Library are now available for download or on-line use by eligible individuals, libraries and schools with braille embossers, refreshable braille displays and other braille-aware devices.

For further information contact: Robert E. Fistick, Head, Publications and Media Section, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, 1291 Taylor St. N.W., Washington, DC 20542; telephone: (202) 707-9279; e-mail: rfis@loc.gov. ◆

Royall

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ers from Washington's preeminent newspaper, *The National Intelligencer,* paid the fine. Embarrassed, Royall resumed traveling.

Upon her return to Washington in 1831, she began publishing *Paul Pry,* a newspaper dedicated to exposing all and every species of political evil and religious fraud, without fear or affection. Named by one of the orphans, who worked for Royall, the paper had almost 100 subscribers. Together with her friend and partner Sally Stack, Royall printed the paper in her house and sold single issues at the Capitol. *Paul Pry* consisted of Royall's original editorials, excerpts from other papers, advertisements, letters to the editor — and her lengthy replies. Part of Royall's financial difficulties were exacerbated when postmasters throughout the country refused to deliver Royall's paper. In retaliation, she published lists of subscribers with accounts in arrears and the names of those postmasters who refused to release the paper to subscribers. With type donated by *The National Intelligencer* and set by a cadre of orphans, the readability of the paper varied from issue to issue. In 1836, *The Huntress* replaced *Paul Pry.* As with *Paul Pry,* the new paper exposed the graft, nepotism and laziness of government clerks. Both papers also included pen portraits and biographical sketches of notable people containing insights drawn from Royall's interviews and observations. Almost every disclosure of government waste was followed by a reminder that the money could be used for widows, orphans or the indigent. Royall exposed land fraud against Native Americans, and though she opposed slavery, Royall argued against the divisive tactics of abolitionists. Indeed, despite a personal abhorrence of drunkenness — she found the selling of alcohol in the Capitol building reprehensible — Royall also criticized temperance advocates. She objected to zealotry and the interference of the government in people's lives.

In 1848, Congress passed a new pension law and Royall obtained her pension. William Royall's family again claimed most of her money. Royall continued to publish *The Huntress* until her death in 1854 at the age of 85. For 30 years, Anne Royall struggled to keep her country informed. A passionate patriot, her sprit and tenacity live on through her writings. ◆

Ms. Earman is a reference assistant in the Rare Book and Special Collections Reading Room.

Reforming Communications

Congress Passes Copyright Legislation

BY RUTH SIEVERS

Television viewers who receive their broadcast stations via satellite will continue to be able to watch television, thanks to the passage of the Intellectual Property and Communications Omnibus Reform Act of 1999.

Just prior to leaving for the holiday season, on Nov. 19, Congress passed the bill (S. 1948) as part of the consolidated appropriations bill (H.R. 3194). President Clinton signed the measure on Nov. 29, and H.R. 3194 is now Public Law 106-113.

Chief among its copyright provisions is the extension of the compulsory license found in section 119 of title 17 (the copyright law), which permits the retransmission of distant television station signals. The license was set to expire on Dec. 31, and without the extension, millions of viewers would have faced a dark holiday for TV viewing. The license is extended for another five years, or until Dec. 31, 2004.

In addition, the bill creates a new compulsory license at section 122 of title 17, a royalty-free license for retransmission of local television stations by satellite carriers.

"For the first time, satellite carriers will be able to legally offer what most Americans want—local television stations," said the Copyright Office's senior attorney for compulsory licenses, Bill Roberts, in describing the provisions of the legislation. Previously, when satellite viewers wanted to watch network television, they had to watch stations broadcast from a distant city.

The new license should make it easier for satellite carriers to compete with cable operators, who have always been able to offer local programming. "Dish Network is already offering the service, and DirecTV is close behind," said Mr. Roberts.

In addition to extending the section 119 license, Congress also reduced the royalty fees that operators have to pay. As a result of a Copyright Arbitration Royalty Panel (CARP) decision two years ago, which was based on legislative mandates, fees were raised. The new legislation reduces the rate per subscriber for superstation rebroadcasts by 30 percent and the rate per subscriber for network rebroadcasts by 45 percent.

Congress also changed the mechanism for determining when a subscriber is eligible to receive distant network stations. Many people who lost their distant programming as a result of recent judicial decisions that found satellite operators in violation of the law may be "grandfathered" to continue to receive those signals. A number of other provisions relating to the satellite license are included in the new act.

The Intellectual Property and Communications Omnibus Reform Act of 1999 also contains a number of technical amendments relating to the Vessel Hull Design Protection Act, which is chapter 13 of title 17. Most important, the sunset provision of chapter 13 was removed, so that chapter 13 is now a permanent part of the law. Among other changes is an expanded definition of a "vessel."

The definition of a work made for hire in section 101 of title 17 was amended to include "sound recordings" in the list of types of specially ordered or commissioned works that may be works made for hire if the parties expressly agree in a written instrument.

The bill removes the requirement that a Copyright Office rule-making pursuant to section 1201(a)(1), required under last year's Digital Millennium Copyright Act legislation, be "on the record," a legal term that would have required an infrequently used, formal trial-like procedure.

A large part of the legislation is devoted to patent reform. Other provisions include those on cyberpiracy in domain names and on-line child protection.

Also passed on Nov. 19 was a separate piece of legislation: the "Digital Theft Deterrence and Copyright Damages Improvement Act of 1999," HR. 3456. The bill, which, at press time, the president was expected to sign, amends section 504(c) of title 17 to increase the minimum statutory damages from $500 to $750, increase the maximum from $20,000 to $30,000, and increase the maximum for willful infringement from $100,000 to $150,000. It also directs the Sentencing Commission to adjust the sentencing guidelines for criminal copyright infringement to ensure that criminal penalties are sufficiently stringent and reflect the retail value of the works that were infringed. ◆

Ms. Sievers is a writer-editor in the Copyright Office.

Memory
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printed texts and images from the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus. The on-line presentation illuminates the history of African Americans in Ohio from 1850 to 1920, a story of slavery and freedom, segregation and integration, religion and politics, migrations and restrictions, harmony and discord, and struggles and successes.

The site also includes a "Special Presentation" of favorite materials chosen by staff of the Ohio Historical Society.

New items are also available in the following American Memory collections: "Map Collections: 1544-1996," "Words and Deeds in American History: Selected Documents Celebrating the Manuscript Division's First 100 Years" and "Built in America: Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record."

"Civil War Maps" and "The African American Experience in Ohio" have been added to the more than 70 collections available from American Memory, a project of the National Digital Library Program. The program will bring more than 5 million items of American history to citizens everywhere as a Gift to the Nation for the Library's Bicentennial on April 24, 2000. ◆

News from the Center for the Book

Recent Celebrations of Writers and Reading

In cooperation with Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA), a longtime national reading promotion partner of the national Center for the Book, several affiliated state centers recognized unique literary landmarks in their states during 1999.

On Nov. 5, Texas's first lady, Laura Bush, participated in ceremonies designating the O. Henry House and Museum in Austin as Texas's first literary landmark. The house, nominated for the honor in the FOLUSA Literary Landmark program by the Texas Center for the Book, was the home of writer O. Henry, whose real name was William Sydney Porter. He lived there with his family from 1893 to 1895, writing his first short stories while publishing his newspaper, *The Rolling Stone*. The designation event coincided with the opening of the Texas Book Festival, which Mrs. Bush chairs. The Texas Center for the Book, located at the Dallas Public Library, sponsored a booth at the festival, which was held in Austin on Nov. 6-7.

Austin officials Jesus Olivares and Jackie Goodman, with Texas first lady Laura Bush, accept the plaque designating the O. Henry House and Museum as a Literary Landmark from Ramiro Salazar of the Dallas Public Library and the Texas Center for the Book.

On July 21, the centennial of writer Ernest Hemingway's birth, the Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park, Ill., celebrated the occasion with a four-day conference and rededication of the restored Hemingway birthplace in Oak Park. As part of the rededication, the Illinois Center for the Book, in conjunction with FOLUSA, designated the home a literary landmark and presented the Hemingway Foundation with a plaque to be placed on the home.

In April, FOLUSA and the Virginia Center for the Book, which is located at the Library of Virginia in Richmond, recognized the historical influence on American literature of Hollins College in Roanoke by designating the campus's new Wyndham Robertson Library as a literary landmark. In making the presentation, Deborah Hocutt, executive director of the Virginia Center for the Book, acknowledged Hollins's reputation for launching some of the most powerful voices in literature. "For a state so rich in literary history and achievement," she said, "it is appropriate that Hollins, the commonwealth's first women's university, is publicly recognized for its 157 years of literary achievement."

The Center for the Book's Pat White (right) in the center's exhibit booth at the World Bank with Cynthia Hugo, director of South Africa's PROJECT READ.

Books at the World Bank

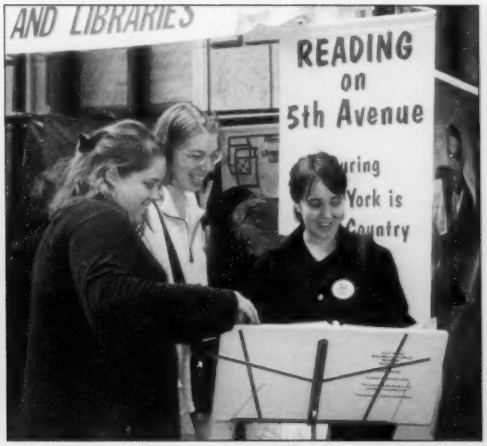
Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole was one of the speakers on Sept. 8 at the annual celebration of International Literacy Day, which was held in the Atrium of the World Bank's headquarters in Washington. Sponsored by the International Reading Association, the World Bank and the Center for the Book, the event featured exhibitions by organizations that promote literacy internationally, six brief presentations and a reception. Winners of the 1999 International Literacy Awards were also announced. The Center for the Book's exhibit booth featured literacy and reading promotion brochures and a selection of posters from around the world.

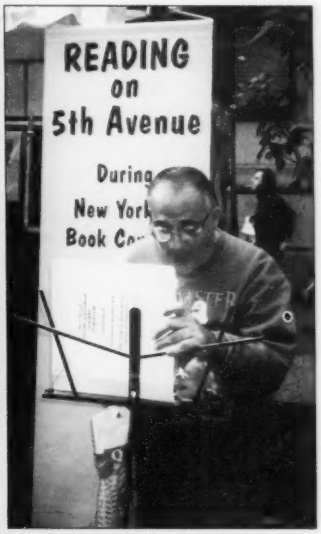
Books on Fifth Avenue

For the seventh consecutive year, the Center for the Book participated in "New York Is Book Country," one of the nation's largest and busiest book fairs. More than 250,000 book lovers attended the fair, held on Sept. 26 on Fifth Avenue, which was blocked off between 48th and 57th streets from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Center for the Book shared exhibit booths with two of its national reading promotion partners: Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA) and the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA). Staff members distributed information and answered questions about the Library of Congress and the Center for the Book's program at both booths.

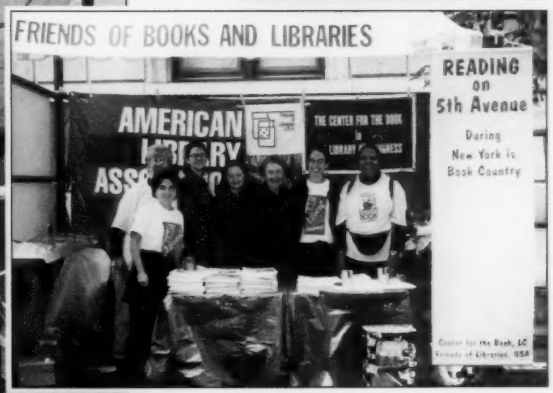
A "readathon" with fairgoers of all ages participating was the highlight of the Center for the Book/FOLUSA booth, located between 54th and 55th streets. The Center for the Book/AIGA booth, between 49th and 50th streets opposite Rockefeller Center, featured the 1998 winners of the 50 Books/50 Covers competition for the best-designed books and book covers. The show is now a traveling exhibition. For information, contact Gabriela Miresky, AIGA, 164 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10010, telephone (212) 807-1990, ext. 231, e-mail: aiga@aol.com. ◆





Participants in the "readathon" at the Center for the Book/FOLUSA booth at the recent "New York Is Book Country" fair.

All photos by Maurvene D. Williams and Margot Hart



American Library Association, FOLUSA, and Center for the Book's staff at "New York Is Book Country."

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